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Bush defends CIA; predicts global terrorism

By ROY WENZL
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LAWRENCE — "I couldn't help but notice the reception committee outside," George Bush, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, said here last night. "It's nice to be back from China . . ."

While approximately 50 students from the University of Kansas marched outside Murphy Hall with chants and signs saying "down with the CIA," Bush was inside, defending his agency in a Vickers Memorial Lecture to a more sympathetic audience of about 400.

International terrorism, with the added dimension of nuclear weapons, probably will take a big jump in the future, Bush said. It was already the agency's most urgent and least trackable problem, he said. And with the number of stockpiles of nuclear materials growing in the U.S. and in the new emerging nuclear powers, the odds were increasing that enough materials could be stolen and fabricated into a weapon by terrorists for acts of blackmail or destruction, he added.

"IT'S DIFFICULT to prevent these acts of mindless kidnaps, murder and terrorism of foreign and American officials," he said. "It is one role of the CIA to protect and prevent these acts."

Bush, who said he had just appeared before the Senate Intelligence Committee that morning, said he was quoting Sen. Frank Church when he said the United States had no choice "but to counter the activities of our enemies by gathering intelligence and vital information on the intent and prowess of its adversaries."

"That is the basis for our purpose," he said. "I don't want to spend time looking back at some of the things you have heard the CIA has done, but look ahead to what we can do in the future."

A number of incidents the agen-

cy had been involved in in the past had been "flat wrong," Bush said, and these problems, he added, had been removed from the agency, partly by legislative action but mostly by corrective actions by the CIA's administration.

"IT WAS just plain dumb to engage in things like trying to get Fidel Castro's beard to fall off," he



BUSH . . . predicts rise in terrorism.

said, drawing a round of laughter from the audience. "Things like that wasted tax dollars and probably would only have made Castro a better man anyway."

Some might want to dwell on the excesses of the past, Bush said.

"I myself look ahead, and can affirm the good things for the future."

Among the activities the CIA engaged in were protection against nuclear proliferation, gathering intelligence on the relationship between the Soviet Union and China, changes in leadership of other countries, drug traffic, international terrorism, and possible economic boycotts.

IN ORDER to respond intelligently to events such as these, Bush said, it was essential that the U.S. had good objective intelligence, without bias or political restraints. It was the role of the CIA to gather that intelligence, he said.

The best method for gathering it, he said, was spying, some of it highly sophisticated, some of it only overt reporting.

"Spying might sound grubby or dirty, but after all, we're not living in too beautiful a world," Bush said.

After his speech, Bush fielded questions from the audience, including one on assassination and covert activities the agency has been involved in.

"THERE WERE times when, because of the peculiar nature of what we were up against, unpleasant things took place," he said. "But we are operating now as cleanly as we can."

Assassination had been legislated against in Congress and decreed against in the agency itself, Bush said. But he wouldn't rule out covert operations by the agency in the future.

The demonstration outside Murphy Hall had been organized, according to one of the protestors, by a group of students calling themselves the "Anti Imperialist Committee," although he said other students had also joined in.

The demonstrators, mostly Latin American or Iranian students, were, he said, protesting the CIA's involvement in not only the U.S., but in Latin American countries and the Middle East.